
CELEBRATE NATIONAL PARKS WEEK

WITH
ROGER WILLIAMS NATIONAL MEMORIAL
&
BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

APRIL 22 - 28, 1996

EVENTS

ALL WEEK LONG

◆ Observe National Parks Week at the Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park, in Uxbridge, MA. "Along the Blackstone" video played each hour every day from noon to 3:00 PM. Special presentations with guest speaker each evening at 7:30 in the River Bend Farm Visitor Center. For more information on programs being offered call 508-278-7604.

◆ Watch for the *Pawtucket Evening Times National Parks Week* daily article featuring highlights of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor's unique partnerships. This daily article will be written by the Heritage Corridor's very own National Park Ranger Robert Bellerose.

◆ *Roger Williams National Memorial* is located in Providence at 282 North Main Street. The site commemorates Roger Williams' contributions to the principles of religious freedom that were incorporated during the founding



NATIONAL
PARK WEEK
APRIL 22-28, 1996

of the United States. The grounds of the Memorial stand on the site of the original settlement of Providence in the 1630's. The Visitor's Center is open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. During National Parks Week and throughout the year, there are two special programs of interest:

◆ *Junior Rangers* at Roger Williams National Memorial: An opportunity for children to discover for themselves Roger Williams' role in the founding of Providence, and learn about the unique sites in the National Park System. Junior Ranger Handbooks can be picked up at the Visitor Center.

EVENTS

◆ *A Walk Through Providence:* Enjoy the spring warmth! The Walk-N-Mass Volkspport Club is sponsoring an ongoing self-guided 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) walk through Providence. Starting at the Roger Williams National Memorial Visitor Center and weaving throughout the historic districts in the city, the walk offers visitors a chance to see the city from a different perspective. The walking maps and information are available for free. For members who credit the walk mileage and anyone who would like the walk pin, there is a \$5 charge.



Monday, April 22

◆ The Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce's *Business Over Easy Breakfast* will give special recognition to two of the state's leading tourism advocates for their visionary leadership: James Pepper, Executive Director of the Blackstone River Valley

2

NHC and Robert Billington, President of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council. Keynote speaker will be U.S. Representative Patrick J. Kennedy, a strong supporter of the Blackstone River Valley NHC, who will talk of its importance to all of Rhode Island.

TIME: 8:00 AM

LOCATION: Omni Biltmore Hotel, downtown Providence.

COST: \$12.00 per person: for reservations call 401-521-5000.

◆ The first day of National Parks Week, is also *Earth Day*. a "natural" lead into a look at the role the Blackstone River Valley NHC plays with its partners in natural resources conservation, management, and education. Guest speaker, National Park Ranger Peter Coffin.

TIME: 7:30 - 9:00 PM

LOCATION: Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park, River Bend Farm Visitor's Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge MA, call 508-278-7604.

COST: Free

Tuesday, April 23

◆ Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor will host a Corridor program to acquaint you with the many interesting facets of the Corridor. The program will be given by a National Park Ranger. Come learn the history of the past, learn about the projects of the present and see the vision we at the Corridor have for the future of the Blackstone River Valley.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL PARKS WEEK

TIME: 12:00 - 1:00 PM. Bring your lunch for a casual but informative presentation on your lunch hour presentation.

LOCATION: The headquarters of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission, One Depot Square, Woonsocket, RI. For more information call the Ranger Hotline at 762-0440.

Cost: Free



◆ "The Faces and Places of our History" program will focus on the process of historic preservation in the Valley and highlight the restoration of a former dairy barn, now an attractive Visitor's Center. Guest speaker: Massachusetts State Park interpreter Val Stegemoen.

TIME: 7:30 - 9:00 PM

LOCATION: Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park, River Bend Farm Visitor's Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge MA. call 508-278-7604.

COST: Free

Wednesday, April 24

◆ Join National Park Ranger Bob Bellerose for an afternoon tour of one of the Blackstone River Valley's most important manufacturing sites. Explore "*America's Hardest Working River*," and learn about the early industrial heritage of and the Village of Valley Falls in Cumberland and Central Falls. Highlights include an examination of water power, reuse options of industrial sites, and a visit to the Valley Falls Heritage Park!

TIME: 1:00 PM. Tour will last approximately one hour.

LOCATION: Meet in front of the Blackstone Falls Housing Complex, High Street, Central Falls.

COST: Free

REMARKS: Wear comfortable shoes for walking. In case of poor weather conditions the program will be held in the community room of the Blackstone Falls Housing Complex.

◆ "*From Classroom to Campsite..Over 265 Million Served*" program will highlight the role of the Heritage Corridor Commission in serving our customers! Those who live, work and visit the Valley. Learn the many ways to explore the resources we have to offer in the Heritage Corridor.

TIME: 7:30 - 9:00 PM

LOCATION: Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, River Bend Farm Visitor's Center, 287

Oak St., Uxbridge MA, call 508-278-7604.



Thursday, April 25

◆ Join National Park Ranger Bob Bellerose for a walk in the Park! Today's theme is "*More Than A Park: Unexpected Programs in Unexpected Places*". Explore the rich heritage of Woonsocket as Ranger Bellerose guides the tour through the past, present and future of Woonsocket.

TIME: 1:00 - 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Tour will begin at the Hanora Lippitt Manor, Main St.. Ranger Bellerose will greet guests prior to the tour at the community room of the Hanora Lippitt Manor. The group will head over to River Island Park, view the Blackstone River and learn the history of the river and how it contributed to the textile industry of Woonsocket. From the park the group will walk along Main Street; Ranger Bellerose will provide historical interpretation along the way. The group will visit City Hall for a look at Harris Hall and learn the history of this Hall. Mayor Menard will stop by to greet the group. Tour will return to Hanora Lippitt Manor for refreshments and "show & tell" with Woonsocket's local artist Denis Lyden. View the art work he has drawn of Main Street, Woonsocket circa 1935.

COST: Free

REMARKS: Wear comfortable shoes for walking. Dress according to weather. If rain program will be

CELEBRATE NATIONAL PARKS WEEK

held at the community room of the Hanora Lippitt Manor.

◆ Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor will host a *lunchtime Corridor program* to have you learn about the many interesting facts of the Corridor. Come learn the history of the past, learn about the projects of the present and see the vision we at the Corridor have for the future of the Blackstone River Valley.

TIME: 12:00 - 1:00 PM, Bring your lunch for a casual but informative presentation on your lunch hour. Guest presentation by Ginny Lesile of RI DEM, who will highlight the river access sites and hiking trails in the Heritage Corridor. Find out about Rhode Island's North South Trail and how you can explore it!

LOCATION: The headquarters of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission, One Depot Square, Woonsocket, RI. For more information call the Ranger Hotline at 762-0440.

Cost: Free

◆ Join National Park Rangers Ray Boswell and Bob Bellerose for a *slide presentation on the historic Blackstone Canal* at the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park in Uxbridge, Massachusetts. Learn how the canal was constructed by Irish immigrant workers and how its operation from 1828-1848 as a transportation system united the people of the Blackstone Valley. The evening will conclude with a discussion on how this component fits within the overall economic revitalization of the Valley through tourism programs.

TIME: 7:30 PM

LOCATION: Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, River Bend Farm Visitor's Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge MA, call 508-278-7604.

COST: Free

◆ *Trading Post In The Wilderness: Roger Williams in 17th century Rhode Island.* At Roger Williams National Memorial a costumed interpreter will offer a special Trading Post Program. At the "trading post" visitors will discover how Roger Williams, through trade with the Wampanoags and the Narragansetts, was able to establish the colony of Rhode Island. By exploring the "trading post" itself visitors will gain insight into the life and times of both European settlers and Native Americans in 17th century Rhode Island.

TIME: 1:00 - 4:00 PM

LOCATION: Roger Williams National Memorial, Providence, RI call for details at 401-521-7266.

COST: Free



Friday, April 26

◆ *This Land is Our Land:* The United States of America contains a wealth of natural and cultural resources. Outstanding examples of these are preserved in our National Park System, the first of its kind in the world. By setting aside areas of national significance, we and future generations are able to learn about

and enjoy our rich heritage. "Travel" across our country and learn about these special places with the aid of pictures, props, and a giant floor map.

TIME: 3:00 - 4:00 PM

LOCATION: Roger Williams National Memorial, Visitor Center, 282 North Main Street, Providence.



Saturday, April 27

◆ **"Volunteers: We Couldn't Do It Without Them".** The Blackstone River Valley NHC will be holding a Volunteer In Parks recruitment for anyone interested in volunteering their time and skills with the National Park Service. This is an opportunity to learn about the history and the resources of the Valley while making new friends and working with the public.

TIME: 10:30 - 12:45, sign up at the Heritage Corridor's office. The sign up will familiarize future VIP's with the opportunities for volunteering and they can also enjoy a Trolley tour of historic Woonsocket.

LOCATION: One Depot Square, Woonsocket, RI. Call for directions and information at 401-762-0440.

◆ **Trolley tours of historic Woonsocket** will be offered in the afternoon by the Blackstone River Valley NHC. A National Park Ranger assisted by a "Volunteer in Park" guide will give the tour aboard the trolley. Come discover the "Mystery of History in Woonsocket".

CELEBRATE NATIONAL PARKS WEEK

TIME: 1:00, 2:00 & 3:00 PM.

LOCATION: One Depot Square, Woonsocket, RI., call for information at 401-762-0440. Plenty of parking on site.

COST: FREE, the trolley is free!! Be our guest in celebrating National Parks Week.

◆ Set some time aside to visit the **Willard House and Clock Museum** for National Parks Week. Tours will explore the lives of the Willard family, famous clock makers of 19th century America. The Willards were responsible for many improvements in time keeping.

TIME: 1:00 - 5:00 PM, guided tours of Willard House, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, Clock making and repair demonstrations.

LOCATION: 11 Willard Street, North Grafton, Massachusetts, 508-839-3500

COST: \$ 3.00 for adults, \$ 1.00 for children.

◆ Saturday is also **Massachusetts Arbor Day.** Celebrate 350 years since the first planting of trees for the public good in the spring of 1646. Saturday activities include a visit from Smokey Bear. Members of the Blackstone River Valley 4-H will help to hand out free tree seedlings and planting instructions courtesy of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management. For more information call River Bend Farm Visitor's Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge, MA, 508-278-7604.

◆ The **Blackstone Valley Explorer** will join in the celebration of National Parks Week by offering all who ride the Explorer riverboat a \$1.00 discount off the regular price for the day. Take a step back in time and discover America's Industrial Heritage on the historic Blackstone River. For more information call 1-800-619-BOAT, 401-334-0837.

TIME: 12:00 - 4:00 PM

LOCATION: Slater Mill Pond, Slater Mill Historic Site, Pawtucket, RI

◆ **Early Morning Bird Walk:** Find those tough birds on your century check list in Massachusetts Audubon Society's ongoing seasonal program designed for the casual beginner. As spring approaches, many migrant birds stop over in our island of green in the city. Join and learn to identify these amazing visitors. Come and share the excitement of the spring migration! Binoculars and field guide are recommended.

TIME: 7:00 AM

LOCATION: Mass. Audubon Society, Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, 414 Massasoit Rd., Worcester, MA .

FEE: \$3.50 Member, \$4.50 Non-member

REGISTRATION: Call 508-753-6087

◆ **Let Nature Be The Teacher:** A family workshop. Carry Earth Day with you and your family all year with this special workshop. Nurture the sense of wonder that all children possess. Your entire

family will learn activities to start exploring any natural spot from Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary to your own back yard. All hands on fun activities are taken from Let Nature Be the Teacher by Lucille Getz. A copy of this wonderful resource is included in the program fee! Beth will combine indoor and outdoor activities, so please dress for the weather.

TIME: 9:30 AM - Noon

LOCATION: Mass. Audubon Society, Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary. 414 Massasoit Rd., Worcester, MA .

COST: \$28.00 Member family, \$32 Non-members family. Includes material and book.

REGISTRATION: Call 508-753-6087

◆ **Trading Post In The Wilderness: Roger Williams in 17th century Rhode Island.**
At Roger Williams National Memorial a costumed interpreter will offer a special Trading Post Program. At the "trading post" ,visitors will discover how Roger Williams, through trade with the Wampanoags and the Narragansetts, founded Rhode Island. By exploring the "trading post" itself visitors will gain insight into the life and times of both European settlers and Native Americans in 17th century Rhode Island.

TIME: 1:00 - 4:00 PM

LOCATION: Roger Williams National Memorial, North Main St., Providence RI. Call for more information 401-521-7266.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL PARKS WEEK

Cost: Free

Sunday, April 28

◆ **Earth Day Celebration,** sponsored by Mass. Audubon Society. Call for more information 508-755-8899.

LOCATION: Institute Park, Salisbury Street, Worcester MA.

TIME: 12:30 - 4:00 PM, rain date, Sunday May 5,1996

FEE: Free

◆ **River Race Course Clean Up,** Looking for experienced people to help clean trees and river debris from the Blackstone River in Northbridge to Uxbridge, Ma., for more information call 401-762-0440.

LOCATION: Meet at River Bend Farm Visitor's Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge, MA, 508-278-7604.

TIME: 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

FEE: Free

REMARKS: Bring your own canoe or kayak and tools for cutting.

◆ Set some time aside to visit the **Willard House and Clock Museum** for National Parks Week. Tour will explore the lives of the Willard family, famous clock makers of the 19th century America. The Willards were responsible for many improvements in time keeping.

TIME: 1:00 - 5:00 PM, guided tours of Willard House
2:00 - 4:00 PM, Clock making and repair demonstrations.

LOCATION: 11 Willard Street, North Grafton, Massachusetts, 508-839-3500.

COST: \$ 3.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children 6 - 12.

For more information on the Heritage Corridor contact:

Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission:
One Depot Square
Woonsocket , RI 02895
401-762-0440

For up to date event information and to request a calendar of events contact:

Blackstone Valley Tourism Council:
640 George Washington Highway,
Lincoln, RI 02865
1-800-454-BVTC

Blackstone Valley Visitors' Bureau:
P.O. Box 502
Whitinsville, MA 01588
1-508-234-9090



BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY

National Heritage Corridor Commission



One Depot Square

Woonsocket, RI 02895



Celebrate

National Parks Week

April 22-28, 1996

What are we celebrating?



The third annual National Parks Week is a celebration of the national park legacy of stewardship and interpretation of our American Heritage resources. This year we will celebrate the ten years of partnership in the Blackstone Valley.

Calendar of events from Providence, Rhode Island to Worcester, Massachusetts coordinated by the staff of the Roger Williams National Memorial Site and the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.